

EDWARD J. BAGALE
VICE CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
4001 LIVERGREEN ROAD - 1130 AD
DEARBORN, MI 48128-2005
313 593-5110 FAX: 313-593-5403
ejh@umich.edu

June 19, 2007

The Honorable Lisa Wojno
Chair Government Operations
State Capitol Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Wojno:

I am writing in support of Representative Polidori's bill HR 78 which itself lends support to Congressman John Conyers' bill HR 1619, and its companion bill S 587 introduced by Senator Debbie Stabenow. These two pieces of legislation, if enacted into law will provide invaluable support to the proud partners and affiliate organizations of MotorCities National Heritage Area. It will help us tell one of America's greatest stories of innovation and resourcefulness. It is our hope to commemorate in 2010 the 100th anniversary of the Model T and the moving assembly line, an innovation in manufacturing technology that literally changed the world and helped make America the great industrial power it is today.

This is our story. It resonates in families throughout our heritage area, which spans more than 6,000 square miles from Detroit through Macomb and Oakland counties to Flint, Lansing, Jackson, and the Irish Hills. The story of the Model T is the story of immigration and the emergency of the middle class in America. It is the story of the five dollar per day wage and the idea that workers could earn enough to actually purchase the products they make. It is a story of a way of life that today is challenged like never before throughout our region and state.

HR 78 is one important step to making the Model T coin bill law, if enacted in would generate millions of dollars, which will be placed into endowment with proceeds regulated to smaller heritage organizations. Since the commemorative coin will be sold to collectors, it will not cost the government anything. The profits will accrue to Michigan and the institutions best able to preserve and recount this important chapter in our history.

On behalf of MotorCities National Heritage Area, our members, partners, and affiliate communities, I wish to thank you and the members of your committee for considering this resolution. We assure you that your work is important to us and to everyone who celebrates the great spirit of ingenuity and resourcefulness that characterizes our State.

Respectfully,



Edward J. Bagale
Founding President MotorCities National Heritage Area
ejh/snr

CC: Representative Gino Polidori
Representative Steve Bieda
Christian Overland, President, MotorCities National Heritage Area
Gary Familian, Executive Director, MotorCities National Heritage Area